

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE**  
**Urban District Council.**



**Annual Report**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

**Sanitary Inspector**

**for 1906.**



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1906.

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*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
WESTON-SUPER-MARE.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of submitting to you my report for the year 1906, and of laying before you the usual tables of Vital Statistics.

From the Registrar's returns I find that, during the year, 411 births (224 Males and 187 Females) were registered in the district, giving a rate of 18·6 per 1,000 of the estimated population of 22,000. The Births for 1905 numbered 373, showing an increase of 38 in 1906.

The Deaths during the same period number 275 (144 Males and 131 Females) showing a decrease of 31 on the number in 1905, and giving a death-rate of 12·5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, viz., 22,000. Forty-seven, or 17 per cent., were of children under one year of age, and one hundred and four, or 37·4 per cent., of persons aged 65 and upwards, viz., 18 between

65 and 70, 50 between 70 and 80, 30 between 80 and 90, and six between 90 and 100, giving an average of 78 years and 9 months.

The Deaths registered from the principal Zymotic Diseases number 12, as against 15 for 1905, and give a rate of 0·54 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The Deaths occurred in the Wards as follows :

<i>Ward.</i>	<i>Census 1901. Population.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000.</i>
West .....	6,056 ...	67 ...	11·06
South .....	6,343 ...	93 ...	14·8
East .....	7,446 ..	115 ...	15·4
	<hr/> 19,845	<hr/> 275	

The list of Deaths includes 29 amongst visitors, 29 in the General Hospital, 3 in the Royal West of England Sanatorium, 1 in the Nurses' Institute, and 21 requiring the Coroner's Inquisition.

Deducting the Deaths amongst visitors, viz., 29, from the total deaths, 275, we arrive at the true rate of mortality, viz., 11·18 per 1,000 of the population proper.

The following table shows the number of deaths from all causes, and those from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases for the past ten years :

<i>Deaths from all causes.</i>									
1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906
234	263	284	289	267	272	215	287	306	275
<i>Deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases :</i>									
17	27	18	16	13	22	10	19	15	12



During the year 130 Notifications of Infectious Diseases were received, as against 128 for 1905, of which 105 were of Scarlatina, 12 of Diphtheria, 9 of Enteric Fever, 3 of Erysipelas and 1 of Puerperal Fever.

**Small Pox.**—No case occurred in the district.

**Scarlatina.**—One hundred and five cases were notified—61 in the first, 20 in the second, 12 in the third and 12 in the fourth quarters respectively. Eighty-four were removed to the Statutory Hospital. The form was generally of a mild type. No death is returned from this complaint. You will observe that more than one half the cases occurred in the first quarter, and assumed an epidemic form, and was confined almost entirely to the South and East Wards. Every precaution was taken to prevent the spread of infection. The Elementary Schools in these Wards were cleansed and fumigated, and also every house in which a case occurred, stamping out the outbreak.

**Diphtheria.**—Twelve cases were notified as against 20 in 1905—5 in the first, 2 in the second, 1 in the third and 4 in the last quarter respectively. Two of the cases were removed to the Statutory Hospital Diphtheria Ward. One death only is due to this disease. Five of the cases were notified from the East Ward, 6 from the West and one from the South.

**Enteric Fever.**—Nine cases were reported—3 were notified from the West, 3 from the South and

3 from the East Wards respectively. Two of the cases were imported, and 2 deaths are returned from this complaint. One case was removed to the Infectious Ward of the General Hospital.

**Measles.**—This complaint was somewhat prevalent in the summer months. No death is returned from this cause. This disease is not notifiable in the District.

**Diarrhœa** was rather prevalent in the second and third quarters, and five deaths are due to this complaint in children under one year of age.

**Whooping Cough.**—A few cases came under my notice in the autumn quarter, and four deaths are returned from this disease in the very young.

**Isolation Hospital.**—This Institution has proved a most valuable acquisition to the town during the past year, no less than 86 cases having been admitted, viz., 84 of Scarlatina and 2 of Diphtheria. It is satisfactory to know that no death occurred in the Hospital.

During the year great and many improvements have been made in this Institution, especially the reconstruction of the administrative block. The roof has been raised, and six rooms added for the accommodation of the Nursing Staff, which was urgently needed.

I am also pleased to state that a new Ward is being built, which, when completed, will give us an additional number of beds, so that for some

years, I hope we are prepared for any emergency. As I have on previous occasions mentioned, the rapid growth of the town demanded the provision of further accommodation, and now that the East Block is nearly completed, we are prepared for any unlooked-for outbreak. I may add that, during the year, an up-to-date Brougham has been provided by your Council, and, in addition thereto, a reconstructed Mortuary built.

An Observation Block and one for Enteric Fever would thoroughly complete our requirements for Infectious Cases, the latter being absolutely necessary.

I cannot speak too highly of the Matron (Miss Mooney), who has always discharged the duties of her office in a most satisfactory manner, and invariably the patients speak in terms of high praise of her kindness and attention in every respect.

**Milton District.**—In October 1905, the Local Government Board sent down one of their Inspectors to inquire as to the advisability of granting a loan of £8,000 in accordance with the application made by your Council for the drainage of that part of your District. After considerable delay, I am pleased to note that the Local Government Board have now sanctioned the loan for carrying out the Sewage Works at Milton. I trust your Council will instruct the Consulting



Engineer to forthwith proceed in the matter, as I have before stated this is a case of urgency.

The making up of the roads and footpaths in this District, which has been carried out during the past year, is a great improvement, and also the lighting arrangement which has been established there. The periodical collection of house refuse and the scavenging of the roads are both worthy of commendation.

**Slaughter Houses.**—In my last year's report, mention was made that your Council were actively considering the reconstruction of the public and private Abattoirs, the property of your Council.

I was in hope, having regard to my previous reports on their insanitary condition, and also to the fact that they actually adjoined the Isolation Hospital, that a modernly equipped building would ere now have been in course of construction on a more suitable site, farther away from the Hospital and the many houses in the vicinity.

A Committee appointed by your Council, accompanied by the Surveyor, visited, I believe, some few towns for the purpose of inspecting the Slaughter Houses thereat, with a view to acquainting themselves with the latest improvements in the construction of such Abattoirs. I have reason to believe a scheme is now being proposed for the re-modelling of our own. I would, however, again advise the complete



removal of the Slaughter Houses to a new site farther from the Town and nearer to the Railway Line. During the year, I have made several inspections of the Slaughter Houses, which included the examination of carcasses of animals that had been seized by your Inspector previous to an application being made for their condemnation, and in each such case I concurred with him in his action.

**The Cemetery.**—I must again urge upon you the early consideration of a matter which deeply concerns the well-being of the town and population, and which is a question of the highest importance. I refer to the acquisition of a suitable site for the burial of the dead. I am informed that it is recommended by your Council to utilise some of the paths in the Cemetery for future additional interments. I hope when you consider my further remarks on this question, you will see the propriety of abandoning this project, and not injure the beauties and amenities of the present Cemetery, in view of the shortness of the period which must necessarily elapse before a new locality is decided upon.

In my Annual Report for 1890 I wrote as follows :—

“The only matter of importance to which I beg to call your attention is the proposed extension of the Cemetery by purchasing adjoining land from

Mr. Pigott. As the Medical Officer of Health to your Board, I feel it my duty to strongly protest against the proposal being carried out, as there is no doubt in my mind that, should this land be acquired for such purpose, there would be a serious risk to your water supply, which, to save from any chance of contamination, you have taken such pains and expended so large a sum of money to secure. Water will travel great distances in the mountain limestone, which is the geological structure of Weston Hill, and the wells that supply the town are in this formation. In proof of this fact, it is known that when the water at the town Pumping Station is low, the Wells at Milton and Kewstoke are dry, and no doubt the Shrubbery well is similarly affected, though not perhaps to so great an extent. I therefore trust the Burial Board will not attempt to carry out the proposed enlargement."

In my Report for 1891, I again made reference to the proposed extension of the Cemetery by the acquisition of the adjoining land, and which objection was subsequently confirmed by the decision of the Home Office after a public official inquiry. My contention is that if it was undesirable to sanction such an extension on sanitary grounds, it is certainly objectionable to continue its use for interments at the present time with a much larger and ever-increasing population. I would, therefore,

suggest that immediate steps be taken to provide a much needed New Cemetery in a more suitable position, but such site should on no account be situated on the Worlebury Hill slopes.

### **The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901:**

**Bakehouses.**—All the Bakehouses have received the usual attention, and were generally found in a satisfactory condition. The Statutory lime-washing and cleansing were carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act.

As in the previous year, periodical inspections of Workshops within the District were made, and the usual register kept. Cards are provided by your Council, free of charge, to each occupier, containing the number of persons to occupy the various rooms. Many improvements in the sanitary arrangements of the Workshops and Work-places were brought about, including the provision of additional sanitary conveniences. The cleansing and ventilation of Workrooms were insisted on when necessary, as shown in the appended tables.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified from the house of a Homeworker, and the premises of this class of workers were found satisfactory.

**Public Works.**—I am pleased to note that you still have before you the question of the provision of additional sanitary conveniences on the Sea Front. Those recently erected have



proved to be a great boon to visitors and residents alike, and I trust you will not cease your efforts in this direction until the requirements of the town are adequately satisfied.

It is satisfactory to know that you are contemplating the carrying out of a new scheme of Surface Water Drainage in the Highbury Hill and Church Road districts. This scheme, having as its object the prevention of the flooding with storm water of the basements of houses in this neighbourhood, as well as the provision of more adequate means for the disposal of the water will, I believe, remedy the existing state of affairs, and also prevent many of the ailments brought about by dampness.

I am also pleased to observe that the abandonment of old, defective sewers, as occasion requires, and the replacement of the same by new ones of modern construction, is carried out by your Council in a most satisfactory manner to those interested in matters of health and sanitation.

The flushing, cleansing and ventilating of the existing sewers in your district, and the scavenging and clearing of roads and footpaths, cleansing of urinals etc., have been carried out with the usual high state of efficiency. With regard, however, to the disposal of house refuse, I would again impress upon you the necessity of the erection of a modern destructor, and to which I have drawn your attention in my previous reports.

I am pleased to note the attention given by your Works Department to the administration of your building bye-laws, and to the supervision of the sewerage and other works carried out.

The excellent and ample supply of water which has always been available for the town, has shown no diminution during the year. I am pleased to note that several small water mains have been replaced by larger ones, thus providing a more efficient supply to the dwelling-houses connected thereto.

The details of registration and nuisances discovered appear in the Sanitary Inspector's Report attached.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, which I append, are tabulated statements of the Deaths in the District, classified according to diseases, ages and localities. In conclusion, I may add that a systematic inspection of the District has been made, as time permitted, and all insanitary conditions and ordinary nuisances, as soon as they were discovered, received immediate attention, whilst those localities in which Zymotic Diseases appeared, were specially and carefully watched, and their hygienic requirements attended to.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
CHAS. VERNON HITCHINS,

*Wyndham Villa,  
9th February, 1907.*

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**TABLE I.**  
Vital Statistics of whole District during 1906 and previous years.  
**WESTON-SUPER-MARE URBAN DISTRICT.**

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.†	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	17,600	332	18·86	43	129·5	243	13·80	20	23		220	12·50
1897	18,000	317	18·72	39	123·0	234	13·00	14	20		214	17·44
1898	18,500	337	18·21	43	127·5	263	14·32	22	21		242	13·08
1899	19,000	319	16·78	44	137·9	284	14·88	16	26		258	13·57
1900	19,500	319	16·35	49	153·5	289	14·82	21	23		266	13·64
1901	19,845	344	18·05	37	107·5	267	14·01	13	5		262	13·75
1902	20,094	307	15·27	34	110·7	272	13·53	18	4		268	13·33
1903	20,344	370	18·18	31	83·7	215	10·50	9	3		212	10·42
1904	20,644	358	17·30	36	100·5	287	13·90	19	10		277	13·47
1905	21,144	373	17·60	38	101·8	306	14·40	24	9		297	14·0
Averages for years 1896-1905.	19,367	337	17·53	39	117·5	266	13·7	17	14		251	13·5
1906	22,000	411	18·6	47	114·35	275	12·5	33	8		267	12·13

\* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)

2,483

Total population at all ages

Number of inhabited houses

Average number of persons per house ...

19,845

3,681

5·3

... } at Census of 1901.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in Public Institutions there.



**TABLE II.**

Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1906  
and previous years.

		DISTRICT—WESTON-SUPER-MARE URBAN.			
		Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
		<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1896	...	17,600	332	243	43
1897	...	18,000	317	234	39
1898	...	18,500	337	263	43
1899	...	19,000	319	284	44
1900	...	19,500	319	289	49
1901	...	19,845	344	267	37
1902	...	20,094	307	272	34
1903	...	20,344	370	215	31
1904	...	20,644	358	287	36
1905	...	21,144	373	306	38
Averages of Years 1896 to 1905 ... }		19,367	337	266	39
1906	...	22,000	411	275	47

**TABLE III.**

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1906 in the  
Weston-super-Mare Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT (H).							NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Un- der 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 & up- w'ds.	
Diphtheria ...	12		2	7	3			2
Erysipelas ...	3					3		
Scarlet Fever	105	1	17	72	8	7		84
Enteric „	9			3	2	4		1*
Puerperal „	1					1		
Totals ...	130	1	19	82	13	15		87

\* Isolation Ward, General Hospital.

H.—Isolation Hospital, Drove Road, Weston-super-Mare.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.  
WESTON-SUPER-MARE URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT AT THE SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.	
Whooping-cough	4	3	1					
Diphtheria & membranous croup	1		1					
Enteric Fever	2				2	1	3	
Epidemic Influenza	4							
Diarrhoea	5	5						
Puerperal Fever	1					1		
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	17	1	1	1	2	14		1
Tubercular Disease	5			1	1	1		
Cancer, malignant disease	16					6	10	
Bronchitis	17	2	1			4	10	1
Pneumonia	19	5	2			8	4	2
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	4					4		
Premature birth	9	9					24	1
Heart Diseases	37			1	1	11		
Accidents	8	3	1			2	2	7
Suicides	2					1	1	
All other causes	124	19	3	6	4	42	50	21
All causes	275	47	10	9	10	95	104	33



TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906. Death from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.  
WESTON-SUPER-MARE URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.		1-2 Weeks.		2-3 Weeks.		3-4 Weeks.		Total under 1 Month.		1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.	
All Causes { Certified - - - 47 Uncertified - - Nil											2					1							3
Common Infectious Disease—																							5
Whooping-cough - - -											1									2			1
Diarrhoeal Diseases—																							1
Diarrhoea, all forms - - -												1											1
Enteritis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) - - -																							1
Gastritis, Gastro intestinal Catarrh - - -																							1
Wasting Diseases—Premature Birth - - -																							9
Congenital Defects - - -																							1
Injury at Birth - - -																							1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus - - -																							1
Tuberculous Diseases - - -																							4
Syphilis - - -																							1
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) - - -																							1
Convulsions - - -																							1
Bronchitis - - -																							5
Pneumonia - - -																							2
Suffocation, overlying - - -																							5
Other Causes - - -																							4
																							3
																							47

District (or sub-division) of Weston-super-Mare.

Population, estimated to middle of 1906, 22,000.

Births in the year—legitimate, 402; illegitimate, 9.

Deaths from all Causes at all ages, 275.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from out- side the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
General Hospital. Royal West of England Sanatorium. Children's Convalescent Home. Nursing Institute.	Axbridge Union Workhouse.	<i>Nil.</i>

## STATUTORY HOSPITAL.

### Statement of Patients admitted to Hospital during the year 1906.

	TOTAL.
In Hospital, December 31st, 1905	27
Admitted during 1906	86
	} 113
Discharged	101
Died	Nil
Remaining in Hospital December 31st, 1906	12
	} 113

**Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1906, for the  
Urban District of Weston-super-Mare.**

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

**1.—INSPECTION.**

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ... .. (Including Factory Laundries).	12	2	Nil.
Workshops ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries).	134	24	„
Workplaces — ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises in- cluded in Part 3 of this Report).	10	6	„
Total ...	156	32	„

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	10	10	Nil.	Nil.
Want of Ventilation ... ..	4	4	„	„
Overcrowding ... ..	4	4	„	„
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	1	1	„	„
Other nuisances ... ..	21	21	„	„
Sanitary accommo- dations. } insufficient ... ..	4	4	„	„
Sec. 22 } unsuitable or				
P. H. A. A. A. } defective ... ..	15	15	„	„
1890 adopted. } not separate for sexes	Nil.	Nil.	„	„
1 W.C. for each 25 workers. }				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (S. 101)...	„	„	„	„
Breach of special sanitary re- quirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) ... ..	„	„	„	„
Other offences ... ..	„	„	„	„
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).				
Total ... ..	59	59	„	„



### 3.—HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	Lists received from Employers twice in a year.		Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises.
	Lists.	Outworkers.	
Wearing Apparel—			
(1) Making &c. - - -	20	106	47
(2) Cleaning & Washing Lace, lace curtains and nets	2	2	1
Furniture and Upholstery -			
Total - - -	22	108	48

### 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 101) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses - - - - -	37
Other trades - - - - -	54
Total number of Workshops on register -	91

### 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133) ...	Nil.
Action taken in matters re- ferred by H.M. Inspect- tors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Fac- tory & Workshop Act (S. 5) {	Notified by H.M. Inspector 6
Other ... ..	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors. 6
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year ...	„
In use at the end of 1905 ... ..	„

Feb. 9th, 1907.

CHARLES VERNON HITCHINS,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

**Weston-super-Mare Urban District Council**  
**CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1906.**

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I append the Annual Climatological Report for 1906.

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*The observations below are recorded by Mr. F. Allen at the Town Hall.*

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The usual monthly reports were forwarded to the Royal Meteorological Society during the year. Weekly and daily reports were also supplied to the local press, and telegrams sent daily reporting sunshine, rainfall and any special phenomena to about a dozen daily and evening papers published in the principal towns.

The highest observed reading of the barometer during the year was 30·70 inches on the 23rd of January, at 9 a.m. The lowest was 29·00 inches on the 11th February, taken at the same hour.

The highest temperature registered in the Stephenson-Screen during the year, was 87·1 degrees on September 1st. The lowest was 27·2 degrees on February 26th.

The highest reading of the blackened bulb in vacuo was 135·2 degrees on July 1st. The greatest difference between the maximum indications, upon the same day, of the bright bulb and the blackened bulb thermometers in vacuo, was 42·8 degrees. The lowest temperature registered over short grass by a sensitive terrestrial radiation minimum thermometer, was 19·0 degrees on February 6th. The day of the highest mean temperature of the air was September 2nd, and the value for that day was 75·0 degrees. The day of the lowest mean temperature was January 23rd, when 33·5 degrees were registered. The greatest range of temperature in the screen upon any one day was 37·4 degrees, which reading was on September 1st. The least range was 4·4 degrees on December 28th.

The average relative humidity of the air taken at 9 a.m. was 79 per cent. Complete saturation was recorded on five occasions.

The greatest duration of bright sunshine, per the Campbell-Stokes recorder, upon any one day, was 14·0 hours on June 6th. The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was ~~4,594·2~~ hours. 1674

The heaviest fall of rain in any one "rainfall day," i.e., twenty-four hours ending at 9 a.m. next day, was 1·42 inches on October 1st. On August 15th, 1·35 was measured. The total amount of rainfall for the year was 29·06 inches. This amount is 1·60 inches above the average for the previous ten years, which is 27·46 inches. Rain fell on 165 days during the year.

The mean temperature for the year was 51·4 degrees.

# MONTHLY RESULTS OF CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

1906.  Month.	TEMPERATURES.							Relative Humidity. %	Amount of Cloud, 9 a.m.	RAIN.		Hours of Sunshine.	Barometer. 9 a.m.
	MEANS.			EXTREMES.						Amount Inches.	Number of Wet days.		
	9 a.m.	Min.	Max.	Range	Mean	Min.	Max.						
January	43.8	40.0	48.1	8.1	44.1	28.1	53.8	0—10	7	3.87	19	69.4	29.985
February	40.7	35.5	45.3	9.8	40.4	27.2	50.6	7	7	1.96	18	88.5	29.809
March	43.7	38.0	49.3	11.3	43.7	31.1	62.2	7	7	2.29	11	126.7	30.057
April	48.7	39.5	55.2	15.7	47.4	31.7	67.0	4	4	0.95	10	216.7	30.415
May	54.5	46.6	58.5	11.9	52.6	36.1	72.8	7	7	3.53	19	131.2	29.900
June	61.5	51.6	70.0	15.4	59.3	45.6	76.9	6	6	2.00	6	233.9	30.198
July	64.4	54.9	68.9	14.0	61.8	48.0	79.7	6	6	1.12	9	211.3	30.115
August	65.4	57.1	70.2	13.1	63.7	48.6	84.0	6	6	2.75	14	204.6	30.068
September	61.4	52.2	67.3	15.1	59.8	40.1	87.1	6	6	0.88	6	191.0	30.276
October	55.1	49.3	59.5	10.2	54.4	37.1	65.8	8	8	5.00	25	81.7	29.884
November	47.5	43.5	51.8	8.3	47.7	30.1	60.6	8	8	3.00	16	58.9	29.994
December	41.4	38.1	45.0	8.4	41.6	28.1	52.3	8	8	1.71	14	60.3	30.026
Means and Totals.	52.3	45.5	57.4	11.8	51.4	36.0	67.7	79	7	29.06	167	<del>1594.2</del> 1674.2	30.060

CHAS. VERNON HITCHINS, Medical Officer of Health.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
ANNUAL REPORT  
for 1906.

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*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
WESTON-SUPER-MARE.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my sixth Annual Report upon the work done in my department.

The work done as usual, has been of a varied character, and moreover continues to grow in proportion to the rapid growth of our Town. The responsibilities of my office are accordingly increasing year by year, demanding the use of greater judgment and tact in carrying out the duties involved. Improvements in the sanitation of Weston-super-Mare generally are becoming more apparent every year, and this is obviously only what is to be expected in a Health Resort where the aim is to be progressive and to cater for the people in the light of modern hygienic requirements. Indeed, in striving to reach our ideals in sanitary

science, with the view of the further reduction of the rate of mortality, it is gratifying to be able to record the fact that your Council, both individually and collectively, is always only too ready to support and assist its officers in every way possible in the administration of the Public Health Acts etc., notwithstanding the fact that such assistance occasionally results in self-sacrifice and financial loss on their part. The public of Weston-super-Mare appear to thoroughly appreciate the efforts of the health officers, and readily welcome their visit, and, as a rule, any suggestions made to them as to possible improvements in matters of sanitation, are readily acted upon. Perhaps, to a great extent, the visiting public to your town is responsible for this dissolved opposition, as I find that visitors are by no means slow to grasp whether a house and its surroundings are as hygienically perfect as might be desired, and the loss of a "let" or two perhaps by the occupier, on account of his house not having a sound system of sanitary arrangements, very soon removes any conservatism, should any exist. This is often noticeable, inasmuch as even where the drains and fittings are perfectly sound and in good working order, an adverse comment upon a wood-cased W.C. frequently results in the fitting being quickly removed, and replaced by a modern and more sanitary pedestal closet.

**Notices and Letters.**—The number of written notices including letters sent with respect to the abatement of nuisances is 293, whilst in no less than 202 instances verbal notices were found to be sufficient in order to get the work done. A verbal intimation means, on the whole, a great saving of time in the abatement of an existing nuisance, especially is it so, if accompanied by a careful explanation as to why such and such a work is required to be done. I have found that when I thus approach them, the owner or occupier appreciates my efforts more fully, and more readily realises the necessity or the advisability of executing the work, or abating the nuisance complained of, with the least possible delay. The number of statutory notices served is 22. It is high time that a new consolidated and improved Public Health Act should take the place of the number of Health Acts which now confront us, and the reason for this is apparent when it is borne in mind that the principal Public Health Act, which forms the basis of the work of sanitary officers in the provinces, is now about 32 years old. Your Council acted very wisely, however, in adopting, many years ago, the latest public health enactment, *i.e.*, the Public Health Amendment Act of 1890, as this Act gives greater and wider powers in public health matters.



**Complaints.**—The number of complaints received is 354, but a number of these on investigation were found not to come within the scope of sanitary law. As usual many of the complaints referred to were of an anonymous nature, but they received the same attention as is ordinarily given to others. Again quite a number of complaints were received, the cause of which was the escape of illuminating gas, either from the fittings and pipes within the house, or from sources outside the premises. There are unmistakeable signs that the condition of the Gas Company's supply mains under the road surfaces are in anything but a gas-tight condition in quite a number of thoroughfares in the district, and as the macadamized and paved surfaces of the roads and footpaths are not by any means of as porous a nature as the ground surfaces of the lands and premises immediately adjoining, there is little wonder that complaints are now and again received of mysterious smells.

**Improvements to House Drainage.**—As good drainage is of primary importance in a health resort, a vast amount of time was naturally, as in former years, taken up by carrying into effect various improvements in house drainage. Again the public acts as one of the best possible levers towards getting good sound drainage, by their insistence on some proof of the soundness and up-to-dateness of all the drains and sanitary

fittings, belonging to premises that they are about to occupy or purchase. The owners of old or previously occupied houses are not alone in their appreciation of the absolute necessity of providing drains and fittings that are in every sense sound and satisfactory, but the speculating builders are also most anxious to comply with our requirements, and to do all they can to provide at any rate sanitary houses. The number of previously occupied houses provided with new drains, properly trapped and ventilated, is 109. Every drain is tested with water under pressure, and proved sound at least twice—in the first case before being covered up, and finally at the completion of everything. The drains are also made accessible throughout in the majority of instances, by means of inspection manholes and chambers, provided with iron covers and frames. The inspection covers are rendered gas-tight in the orthodox fashion by means of tallow or other suitable composition, and are subjected, along with the remainder of the fittings, to the smoke test after the application of the final water test. The intercepting syphons used are of the “Winser” type, and are in all cases therefore fixed in connection with an inspection manhole, at a point as near as practicable to the public sewer. Wherever possible, endeavour is made to abolish the “mica valve” fresh air inlet, and to substitute in lieu



thereof a 4 inch ventilating shaft, carried up the side of the house, and above the roof, but whenever this is done, care is taken that there is sufficient difference in the height of this and the other ventilating shaft (or soil-pipe) connected to the drain, to ensure a freedom of action for the air currents. The defects of the "mica valves," particularly of the cheaper varieties, are such that a health officer cannot possibly ignore, especially when they are fixed at a low point near a footpath ; but apart from the substitution of shafts for these, which is not always possible, it is somewhat of a difficulty to find a remedy.

**New Buildings.**—The duty of supervising the laying of house drains, including private combined drains, in connection with all new buildings, has, as heretofore, entailed a tremendous amount of extra work. The progress of the building trade in Weston-super-Mare during the year 1906 has again been phenomenal, mainly perhaps owing to the development of several new building estates within the district. The drainage and sanitary fittings of no less than 158 new buildings were inspected, 139 of which were certified to the Town Surveyor as being in compliance with the plans approved by the Council, and the bye-laws in that behalf. The water test was applied to these drains at least twice in every case, and the smoke test once, so that at the time of certifying, they were



in a sound and satisfactory condition. The builders are continuing to give every assistance that can reasonably be expected of them, and this renders the duty of supervision a much easier task than it otherwise would be. The number of separate water tests applied to the drains of new buildings alone is 444, whilst the number of smoke tests for the same buildings is 144.

**House to House Inspection.**—The total number of houses inspected is 736, the number of premises systematically inspected in the ordinary sense of the term is, however, unavoidably small, only about 50 houses being so examined, but taking into consideration the vast amount of actual re-drainage work that is yearly accomplished, and the careful attention given to the sanitary arrangements to new houses, inspection is really carried on in your town in a very thorough manner. House to house inspection is apt to be of a superficial character, if regard is given to the number of such inspections and not to the results.

**Infectious Diseases.**—The Medical Officer of Health receives at his residence all notifications of infectious diseases, and on the receipt of instructions and particulars of each case from him, I supplement his visits by obtaining a written record of all the possible movements and history of the patient, together with any other information that will tend to trace the origin of the case or

cases, as well as ascertain the condition of the sanitary arrangements of the house. The places of employment and school, if any, of all the other members of the family are also noted. I may add that in connection with this interesting work, I discovered the origin and means of propagation of quite a number of infectious cases during the year. Infected bedding and other articles were removed from eighty-three premises for disinfection by steam, and a total of 3,500 articles were subjected to such disinfection, at our disinfecting station. The disinfection of rooms is effected by formaldehyde vapour, generated from tablets of paraformaldehyde by means of the "Hydralformant" and "Alformant" lamps. Fumigation is always carried out before attempting to remove any infected bedding; rooms are also sprayed with formalin and other solutions. As one that advocated strongly for some time the necessity of procuring an up-to-date "Brougham" ambulance, I am very pleased to note that this much needed vehicle was purchased by your Council in the early part of the year, it has since been regularly used for the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital. The present system of removal is a decided improvement over the old wheel-chair method, and, as your own horse is now used for both the removal of infected clothes and patients, the change has also been an economical one.



The number of school notices sent, by the request of the Medical Officer of Health, prohibiting the attendance of scholars from infected houses, or informing them that a house was free from infection, is 147.

**Slaughter-Houses.**—The condition of the public abattoir and of the eight private slaughter-houses owned by your Council, is still unaltered, and as I have previously reported, they are badly in need of reconstruction and rearrangement, to bring them to comply with requirements of modern knowledge. It is pleasing, however, to note that some little progress has been made in the right direction, a Committee having been appointed by your Council to visit Slaughter-houses in other towns, and, apparently, with the knowledge thus obtained, devise a scheme suitable for the demands of our own important and growing Town. It is to be sincerely hoped that some definite steps will be taken by your Council in the near future, to provide a new set of modern buildings and conveniences for slaughtering, as well as a new and more suitable site. It is also gratifying to observe that your Council have recently transferred the control of the Slaughter-houses from the Works and General Purposes Committee to the Sanitary Committee, which measure, I feel confident, will be productive of much good, although I am strongly of opinion that it would be more



satisfactory in all ways if the buildings were, both structurally and as far as the management is concerned, under the control of the one and the same Committee ; more especially so now that the proposed alterations are being discussed and designs prepared. The now somewhat primitive Bye-laws of 1869 are still practically the only legal control over the inner workings of the Slaughter-houses and as these Bye-laws are, needless to say, quite inadequate for the present requirements of the Town, I trust that with the advent of an improved set of buildings, the Council will not hesitate to adopt a model series of Bye-laws in their place. The regulations passed in the early part of the year, among other matters informally prohibiting the filthy habit of “blowing” the carcasses of calves and lambs with the foul air from the butchers’ lungs, have not appealed to the butchers in vain, and one and all now use a specially adapted metallic inflator for that purpose, The following are particulars of animals slaughtered at the public Slaughter-house during the year :

Number of Pigs slaughtered 2,934.

„ „ Sheep „ 2,330.

„ „ Calves „ 419.

„ „ Oxen „ 399.

The whole of the Slaughter-houses were periodically inspected, as often as time permitted, during the year. The occupiers of the Slaughter-houses were

served with 40 notices requiring the cleansing and limewashing of their premises, which were, in every instance, complied with, and the cleaning and the limewashing done at least four times during the year. I have again received valuable assistance from your caretaker (Mr. W. Warner), who continues to keep a sharp look-out for any unusual appearance of any of the internal organs and carcasses of animals slaughtered therein, keeping me well informed of all suspicious ones that have come to his notice. As at present arranged, however, it is impossible for every animal to be thus inspected, but I feel sure that now the Health Committee has control over the administration of the abattoirs, that this and many other needed improvements will be dealt with before this time next year.

**Unsound Food etc.**—On the whole, the carcasses of animals dressed within the district were of a first-class quality, but the carcasses of 3 oxen, 5 pigs and 1 sheep were seized and destroyed during the year. These animals were, however, with one exception, well nourished. The bullocks referred to indicated signs of the disease known as tuberculosis, the organs only, apparently, affected, but on making a closer examination, I found the pleura and peritoneum, as well as some of the lymphatic glands in the muscular system, were also more or less affected in each case. In the

other case, however, the animal was palpably diseased when alive and brought into the fasting pens, and proceedings are now being taken with a view of prosecuting the butcher in whose possession the carcase was at the time of preparation for sale. Needless to say, the whole of the organs and offal belonging to the above were also at once destroyed. The lungs of another bullock were seized and destroyed, but as these organs were the only part affected with tuberculosis, the remainder of the carcase was allowed to pass in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis. The following were also seized and destroyed during the year as being unfit for the food of man :—

224	pounds	(about)	of	Whelks.	} Examined at the request of the Consignee.
140	„	„	„	Mixed Fish.	
348	„	„	„	Beef.	
15	„	„	„	Pears.	
8	„	„	„	Mutton.	
3	„	„	„	Plums.	
3	„	„	„	Green Peas.	
1	„	„	„	Tomatoes.	

Excepting where I was invited to examine by the consignees of the above mentioned, warnings were given to all of the vendors explaining the necessity of their exercising greater care in the



future if they would avoid the serious liability of the heavy penalty involved if they were again found exposing or preparing for sale, or in possession of, any article that was meant for the food of man, and was diseased, unsound or unwholesome.

**Factories and Workshops.**—Again a good many improvements have been effected in the sanitary arrangements and the hygienic surroundings of factories, workshops, workplaces and bakehouses. The usual register of workshops is kept, and no less than ninety-one are entered therein, which number includes thirty-seven bakehouses and twelve factories. All these premises were periodically inspected, and overcrowding was discovered in four cases, and the occupiers were warned of the legal consequences, should they repeat the offence. Improved sanitary conveniences, ventilation, limewashing and cleansing were carried out in thirty workshops and workplaces, whilst the walls and ceilings of all bakehouses were cleaned and limewashed at least twice during the year. The number of lists of outworkers received, together with the number of outworkers, and particulars of inspection and work done, in accordance with the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1901, appear in a tabular form, and are included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

**Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**—There are forty-six milk vendors on the register, and their premises were inspected, if within the district, and the usual supervision as to cleanliness, etc., given to the premises. With reference to the measuring of milk on the road, I consider that milk should either be brought and transferred directly to the retailer, in the latter's own milk can, without any undue exposure to road dust and other possible contaminations, or the handling, if unavoidable, should in all cases be conducted in a recognised milk dépôt. The present system of registering the person, and not the premises, is also by no means a good one, and having regard to the fact that milk is to-day the staple diet of young infants, and enters largely into the foods of invalids also, its protection is surely of sufficient importance to demand that every milk - seller should be licensed. Power should also be given to all town sanitary authorities to inspect and examine all premises and animals from which supply of milk is obtained, and to insist on proper sanitary conditions being maintained on all farms, and to observe the state of health of the cows, with a view to every hygienic precaution being taken at the original place of handling, without having to wait, as at present, until an infectious outbreak occurs. It is well-known that the water supply of country districts is not

infrequently badly polluted, and the unnecessary custom of washing the milk utensils finally in cold unboiled water that has been drawn from a well of doubtful purity, is in itself proof that there is a grave and crying need for stricter inspections of these places, than at present exists.

**Common Lodging-houses.**—The number of common lodging-houses registered are still only five, and are all situated in Union Street. The usual limewashing was duly carried out, and the premises kept in a cleanly state. These houses are the ordinary cottage style, converted into lodging-houses, and, being rather old fashioned, are not by any means models, and only give a total accommodation to seventy-eight persons.

**Public Buildings, Schools and Institutions.**—It is pleasing again to be able to report that the principals of private schools in the town are continuing to give special attention to the sanitation of their schools, and their endeavours are certainly to be highly commended. Under the above head, eleven premises were inspected, and in several of these the sanitary arrangements were brought up to modern requirements.

**Refreshment Houses, Hotels etc.**—The usual attention was again given to refreshment houses, hotels and provision shops, and insufficient or defective sanitary fittings and drains were



discovered in 9 premises, and remedial measures taken. Attention was also given to the cleanliness of the premises, and to the removal of garbage.

**Milton District.**—The cesspools in this added area are unfortunately still in existence, but they are emptied by your Council's men by means of a special pump and van purchased for that purpose, and every endeavour is made to minimise the nuisance that must inevitably follow such a system of drainage by the free use of disinfectants and otherwise. It must, however, be now probably only a question of months before the new sewerage scheme will be commenced, as I understand the application for a loan made to the Local Government Board some time ago, has been duly sanctioned. The carrying out of this much needed work will be a further safeguard to our water supply, the district in question being a part of our "water-shed" area.

**Legal Proceedings.**—I am again pleased to be able to report that it has not been found necessary to take any summary proceedings for the abatement of nuisances, or for the breach of the Public Health Bye-laws, but in many instances however, some pressure had to be brought to bear upon owners and occupiers.

In appending a summary of the work done in my department during the past year, I would like to mention that had it not been for the valuable

and increasing help of my general assistant (Mr. J. Warren), who has performed his duties in a manner entirely satisfactory, it would not have been possible to effect so proper and complete a supervision of such an immense amount of new drainage works as has been the case.

In conclusion, I beg most heartily to thank the Chairman and the members of the Sanitary Committee for their continued interest in my efforts, and for the unanimous support that they have accorded me during the past year, which is most encouraging.

My thanks are also due to the Medical Officer of Health and other officials for their valued co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS JONES, Cert. R. San. Inst.

*Sanitary Inspector.*

*17th January, 1907.*

# SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

done during the year.

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Houses and Premises inspected	-	-	-	-	-	736
Complaints investigated	-	-	-	-	-	354
Complaints referred to the Surveyor	-	-	-	-	-	9
Complaints investigated where Coal Gas was found to be the contaminating source	-	-	-	-	-	16
Houses systematically inspected	-	-	-	-	-	50
Refreshment Houses, Hotels and Provision Shops specially inspected	-	-	-	-	-	18
Schools, Public Buildings and Institutions inspected	-	-	-	-	-	11
Written Notices and Letters sent with respect to the abatement of Nuisances	-	-	-	-	-	293
Verbal notices given	-	-	-	-	-	202
Number of Houses (old) provided with new drains, properly intercepted, ventilated and made smoke and water-tight	-	-	-	-	-	109
Drains cleared and cleansed or repaired	-	-	-	-	-	52
Soil Pipes removed to outside, or repaired and properly ventilated	-	-	-	-	-	78
Number of old Pan Container Closets removed	-	-	-	-	-	2
New W.C. Pans provided and fixed of the "wash- down" type (principally pedestal closets)	-	-	-	-	-	169
Water Closets cleansed and repaired	-	-	-	-	-	28
W.C.'s without a sufficient external ventilation and lighting, improved or abolished and reconstructed	-	-	-	-	-	36



New Flushing Cisterns supplied to water closets	-	143
Glazed Stoneware Sinks provided and fixed with properly trapped waste pipes	- - - - -	112
Number of rain-water Down Pipes and Waste Pipes disconnected from drains	- - - - -	98
Baths and Lavatory Waste Pipes trapped	- - -	54
Rain-water underground Storage Tanks cleansed, and Overflows disconnected from drains or examined	-	45
Urinals re-constructed or repaired, and with proper Flushing Cisterns provided	- - - - -	3
Yards repaved or repaired	- - - - -	53
Sanitary Dustbins provided and Ashpits abolished	-	37
Defective House Roofs, Walls, Floors and Gutterings repaired	- - - - -	35
Number of Cesspools cleared and cleansed by own men		738
Rooms fumigated and disinfected after illness of infectious character	- - - - -	219
Number of premises from which Infectious Articles were removed for disinfection by steam	- -	83
Total number of Articles disinfected by steam at your Disinfecting Station	- - - - -	3,500
Number of School Notices sent in connection with the attendance of scholars from infected houses	- -	147
Number of Lime Brushes lent to Cottagers	- - -	196
Waste of Water discovered and Fittings repaired	-	7
Rooms and Premises cleansed and limewashed	- -	84
Nuisances from overcrowding abated	- - -	10
Nuisances from overcrowded Workrooms abated	-	4
Stagnant Water removed, and Ditches and Private Lanes cleansed	- - - - -	45
Nuisances arising from the keeping of Animals abated		11
Accumulations of Manure and other Refuse removed	-	37

Defective and foul Manure Pits abolished, and new Bins provided and properly drained	-	-	-	-	12
Number of Wells and Tanks closed and town water laid on	-	-	-	-	4
Number of Sanitary Certificates granted	-	-	-	-	1
Smoke Nuisances abated	-	-	-	-	2
Number of Sewer Ventilating Shafts tested with Smoke					10
Number of new Sewer Lengths tested	-	-	-	-	79
Number of times Water Test applied to new or repaired drains belonging to old houses	-	-	-	-	560
Soil Pipes, Ventilating Shafts and Drains tested with the Smoke Machine	-	-	-	-	152
Number of Water Tests applied to the drains of new buildings	-	-	-	-	444
Number of times Smoke Tests applied to the drains and sanitary fittings of new buildings	-	-	-	-	144
New buildings and Premises inspected for which plans had been approved	-	-	-	-	158
Number of New Houses certified to the Surveyor as having the drains and sanitary fittings in compliance with the building bye-laws	-	-	-	-	139
Periodically Inspected.	{	Licensed Slaughter-houses	-	-	9
		Registered Dairies, Milkshops and Cow-sheds	-	-	45
		Registered Workshops, including Bake-houses	-	-	91
		Offensive trades within District	-	-	1
		Registered Common Lodging-houses	-	-	5

THOMAS JONES, Cert. R. San. Inst.,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

